

The background of the book cover is a collage. At the top, the head and crown of the Statue of Liberty are visible, with rays of light emanating from the crown. Below the statue, a large, yellowed, and crumpled document, likely the US Constitution, is shown. The word "People" is clearly visible in large, cursive script on the document. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of orange, yellow, and brown.

POLITICAL THEOLOGY FOR ATHEISTS IN AMERICA

SRINATH FERNANDO

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"If anyone listens to my My voice and opens the door, I shall
come to him and dine with him and he with me" Rev 3;10

Dear Brothers and Sisters who are 'NOT IN CHRIST'.

It is an honor and a privilege to address you openly. There is no preface to this book nor is there an index but my intention is to engage your imagination until you complete reading this book. I trust that you will have another perspective of your life by the time you complete reading this book. I must also confess that I am a sinner yet I have a firm faith in GOD. I fall into sin because I am made of flesh and blood. I always try my level best to remain sinless but I always fall into error. The moment I realize that I have committed an error, I seek forgiveness from GOD. Though I am a Catholic I have not confined my arguments only to catholic theology but have derived some ideas from other philosophers and theologians who have expounded theories on the existence of GOD. There are quite a number of popular Theologians from Catholic Church among whom St. Augustine and St. Aquinas played a dominant role in shaping Catholic theology. The idea for this book was occasioned by the desire to bring those who have departed from the Christianity and chose to live a life without GOD. I therefore elected to address a topic that was of contemporary concern not only in America but also in other countries especially in Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, New Zealand, South Africa, Europe and other countries where Atheism and agnosticism have gained ground. This is an alarming development and there would be absolute chaos if the growth of this phenomenon were allowed to thrive unhindered.

This is purely an effort on my own and no one was directly or indirectly involved in this exercise. Hence if you come across any error or misconception on my part you will have to correct it yourself and continue to read the book. I am

deeply beholden to Holy Spirit, the paraclete, for having stood by me until I completed the book.

TALKING TO YOU AS A CONFIRMED ATHEIST

You may have had education at renowned Universities in your country. You may be an intellectual giant. My only request is for you to read this book to the end and see if your thoughts can be realigned with the reality. I know you do not believe in the existence of GOD. Nor do I know what drove you to that conclusion. If this is so then you would not believe that GOD created this world and the man. Neither would you believe that before man was created GOD must have thought about gravity. If there is no gravity he could not possibly have created a Garden of Eden. GOD surely did not want to see his trees and his Adam and Eve floating above the earth. Since you were driven to deny GOD I wonder why your inner logic dictates this fact to you before. I am not a scientist but I do believe that if your thoughts are guided you could be persuaded to have another look at your own logic. Do keep in mind there are many great Philosophers in this world who still believe in the existence of GOD despite their acclaimed standing in the academic life.

Since the time man and woman began procreation there has not been an imbalance in the production of males and females. There is no record of history that men or women were in short supply. There may have been records of geographical distribution when doing research on population statistics but have you ever discovered that one particular region was left with no women or men. So there is someone ensuring that proper proportion of men and women is being maintained. Science cannot pre-

determine that a conception of a child would be male or female. This is so with animal world. Don't you feel that someone is ensuring that reproductive cycle is kept intact all the time. There are endangered species in the world that was mostly due to Man having meddled with the nature and destroyed the natural habitat. Man's insatiable greed is the cause of many irritants in this world.

You are born to Christian parents. Aren't you? They may be Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Baptist or any other denomination. You may have something in your genes which you have inherited at birth. You were baptized in the church. If you don't believe in GOD there is no need for you also to think of morality¹. Morality is defined as being a set of standards that are found to be good or right in the eyes of a vast majority of people. These standards of morality are derived from the laws of nature and essence of what is preached by every religion in this world. There are some critics who say that man must necessarily have the idea of GOD in order to have an idea of good and evil. I say that man's existence in this world and its phenomena made him to believe existence of a benevolent GOD not the other way around.

If you don't believe in the existence of GOD, how can you believe that you came to this world through your father and mother because you were not a witness to your own creation and birth? You came to this world as a tiny creature, an infant, with a blank mind (Tabular Rasa / Blank Slate) and you needed to be attended to until you were about three or four years of age. Still you were considered a person with a growing mind. Only when you reached the age of 12 or 13 did you come to know about yourself. You began to feel that you are living in a world. You began to experience

things common to human beings and you looked around wondering what sort of a world this is. How can you still be certain that you came through your father and mother? You have a document which indicates the name of your father and mother as being your parents. Are you satisfied with this simple document called Certificate of Birth? If you are satisfied, then that denotes that you **'believed'** the document to which you have not been a witness. **So why not now you apply logic. What empirical evidence you have that you are born to your parents? I am applying the same logic that you applied to ascertain whether GOD existed or not.** Why have you not disputed your own birth because you don't want to 'believe' it to be a document which certifies the date on which you came to this world? You could have been mistaken for somebody else child? The Sun that sets in the evening rises again in the morning. You believed that it is the same Sun that you saw the previous day. You believe it to be so because you have no proof of that yet you are compelled to believe it, based on laws of physics you learned from others. You did not do any empirical research to ascertain if the facts are true or false. I doubt whether you have a belief that different Suns appear on each morning. So you have a firm conviction that it is the same Sun that appears every morning. Have you done empirical research on this matter? Are you not feeling guilty over your denial of GOD now? If someone says he felt the hand of GOD, you should not then be asking for empirical evidence but rather 'believe' what he or she has to say.

FEAR FOR GOD

We fear GOD. You don't fear GOD so you can do whatever you can think of. You don't have to believe in retribution, repentance, reformation or reparation. These are associated with the notion of GOD and the fear for GOD. You can also engage in immorality that we call the negation of morality. You will also have to bear up the immoralities upon you by others. You have voluntarily accepted immorality upon you because you do not have a notion that describes morality. Let's assume that as you step out of the house someone with a strong muscle power overpowers you and removes your shoes. In the ensuing battle you managed to remove his hat. Then after sometimes you wrestle another person and he removes your hat and you take his shoes. Since you don't believe in morality there is a recurrence of such events. What does this cycle of events manifest? It is the perpetration of evil upon one another. Since you don't believe in the existence of GOD you don't have to worry about the retribution. I know you may not have thought of such evil but still one could argue that your actions or conduct are not subject to divine retribution except that you will be treated equally before the laws made by the legislature. Imagine a society or a state is created only with Atheists. How chaotic it would be? For believers like us morality means the goodness of things, the Ten Commandments, the order of good things as described in the Old Testament and the New Testament. We believe in the mission of the Son of God whose arrival had been prophesied in the Old Testament.

YOUR AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

If you don't believe in GOD then you cannot possibly claim that you are an American citizen. Your citizenship in America is meaningless. It is closely allied with your faith in Jesus. Have you had a closer look at the preamble to the Constitution? It acknowledges that it was adopted on 4th July and it says **'in the year of our Lord'**. The President of America takes oaths by raising right hand and placing the left hand on the Bible and says **'So help me GOD²'**. The text may not have this but it has customarily been followed since adoption of the Constitution. However Judiciary Act of 1789, oath of affirmation clearly shows **'So help me GOD'** in the text³.

YOUR AMERICAN IDENTITY

You cannot possibly remain an American citizen you need to renounce your citizenship because founding fathers of the Constitution meant what they wrote. You cannot hold public office by subscribing to the Constitution and if you happen to be holding a public office either you must be a believer, even pretend to believe or you must give up your office immediately. You cannot possibly be an Atheist openly. You saw in your own eyes the tragedy of Oklahoma and the recent incident in Norway. None of these perpetrators believed in the existence of GOD. Their thoughts could not be filtered through a standard of morality. Are Atheist therefore a threat to National Security, Public Order and accepted morality? In Ancient Greece Socrates was sentenced to death by the State because his utterances were disrespectful of GOD. Your constitution makers ensured that Americans must have the freedom of speech. Does denial of GOD amount to profanity and whether it

could be defended under freedom of speech enshrined in the constitution? Makers of the American constitution would be astonished to see a growing number of Atheists in America? Being an American you have the constitutional protection for your conscience which the founding fathers must have derived it from or had its influence from John Locke's political philosophy that individual conscience should be free from state control. Locke argued that government lacked authority in the realm of individual conscience and rational individuals cannot cede this right to the government. Yet the belief in GOD is a central plank on which American state was founded. A true state is meaningless if there is an outgrowth of Atheists and the state would slide down on a precipice of absolute anarchy. The ugly face of the Anti-Christ would emerge from that society. Suppose an atheists or a political party consists of atheists come to power, what would be the situation in America. Would they repeal the constitution? Would they prohibit teaching religion in Schools? Does the constitution necessarily stipulate that the President of America must be a believer in GOD? Even if an Atheist takes office as President of America, would his purported oaths carry any legitimacy? Would the American government consists of Atheists then propagate Atheism across the world? This is akin to spreading communism by Soviet Union at the height of cold war? Would this be yet another vicious cycle? There will be a new McCarthyism. Atheists might even legalise abortion and euthanasia. A government led by atheists would not hesitate to use a nuclear weapon because there is no moral code by which their conduct is governed. To put it in a nutshell affairs of a government led by atheists would be utterly unimaginable, unpredictable and therefore catastrophic.

THREAT OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA

It was fortunate that World was rid of communism. It was roundly defeated thanks to persistent efforts by the American, British and European governments. Under communism there is no place for religion. Communism only gave vent to Atheistic attitudes of people and tried to indoctrinate with communist ideologies. Americans and the West stood firmly against the growing expansion of communism worldwide. Anyone who had been found to have been promoting communist inclinations or communist ideologies was called 'unpatriotic' and 'Un-American'. They were hunted down and removed from Government establishment and while others were asked to provide an oath of allegiance to the government. During 1950's they were a threat to the National Security of America.

Karl Marx said that the "religion is the opium of the people". Lenin said it in a different form "Atheism is a natural and inseparable part of Marxism, of the theory and practice of scientific socialism". No state would prevail without the religious and moral foundations of a society. It would crumble when the time is ripe just as the way we saw how Soviet Union collapsed. Even Islam owes America a debt of gratitude for having formed a line of defense against communist expansion in the Arab World. Turkey, an Islamic country, played a leading role under NATO defense treaty and hosted American military bases. Communism would have been the greatest threat to Islam. America and the West kept communism at bay.

You cannot stick to the official calendar because it is taken from the date Jesus died Anno Domino. You need to have a separate calendar however unrealistic that may sound.

If you don't believe in Jesus then you cannot believe in his birth as well. Don't you think official calendar is of no use to you? Now how would you reconcile this fact with your day to day life? Why do you count dates, months and years since the year Jesus died? Which calendar would you like to incorporate into your personal computer? Are you going to confront the rest of the world over this issue?

One friend of mine, with whom I had a very close friendship from schooldays, once told me that he learned 'illicit major' and 'illicit minor' when he was studying Logic and he said that he came to the conclusion that there is no GOD through the application of logic that he learned. What he told me was that a Cat has four legs and a Table has four legs and therefore you can call a Cat a Table and Table a Cat. If logic is the one that drives people away from GOD, then logic is as evil as he claims he was driven to the conclusion that there is not a GOD. It is true little learning is dangerous. I totally disagreed with my friend. That does not mean that I know everything. But I learnt something that is - to know everything about the phenomenon's of this world you must be reborn million times, yet I doubt a person would gain absolute knowledge of the things in this world. One has to be born again as Edmond Hurserl, the father of phenomenology, to understand the phenomenon's of this world. The knowledge that we have is totally inadequate neither to deny nor even to accept the existence of a supernatural being. But we have an idea that there is someone who could be giving direction to the universal laws of nature. I have no issues with my friend, whom I referred above, having learned logic. Logic is an advance subject to equip your mind with a tool of analysis. Studying logic would never drive you to deny GOD. You cannot use Logic for all purposes especially

when it comes to the nature and the natural world. Your own learning or rather relying on your own intellect would be of no value in the eyes of the vastness of the world and its phenomenon's. Your intellect is just a fraction of a drop in the sea when it comes to the knowledge. Never in your life will you learn anything about this world. You and I have a fairly short time to spend in this world and during which time nothing could be meaningfully experienced as good. You and I have the idea that life is short and that once you are born you must die. Since in our own eyes we saw the parting of others forever therefore we don't believe that we will live forever. There is no one you can find who lived for more than 100 plus years or so. Rarely will you find a person who has survived 120 plus years. We know that birth is the beginning of all suffering and death is the cessation of all the pains and pleasures. You don't even know what makes you feel hungry or thirsty or what causes the atmosphere to contain only 21% oxygen all the time. In order to maintain the set percentage of oxygen it will have to absorb from somewhere to make up the loss and it could well end up in a natural disaster. Global warming is a pertinent topic in this regard. This formula cannot be changed. These are the laws of nature. You cannot reach ten meters away from you without making an effort on your part. Anything that occurs in the Universe has an impact on this world. Even to know GOD you need to make an effort. Before making an effort you need 'the will' that puts you into action. How will this 'will' is born in your mind. Your 'will' has put you into action to be a non-believer. You rejected the notion of GOD's existence through an effort on your part or rather by relying on your own intellect. In the same way you need to make an effort to get to know God's existence, which I guess, would be much more difficult than denying GOD, by studying the

scripture, theology or you can even have a session with someone who is thorough with Theology. Once you come to **'know'** GOD you would need yet another effort to **'feel'** GOD. You need continuous efforts to be in his sight and to receive his **'grace'**.

There are thousands in your midst who have felt the hand of GOD. Why not talk to them and see if you are mistaken in your view of GOD. How come that your ideas are vastly different from others? Their testimony of GOD's grace upon them may seem wrong to you. You might even say they could be mistaken in their views you might even revile at them. If you think they are wrong then how you can claim to be right in your thoughts? You too could possibly be wrong. You don't have the personal conviction to reject the notion that GOD exists. They have experienced the touch of GOD. You must give more weight to those who felt GOD. But you have only your convoluted logic to deny the existence of GOD. You read about Plato, Aristotle and other Greek philosophers who were born many centuries before Jesus Christ. You believed that these dialogues of philosophers were handed down to us through generations. Yet you are hesitant to read and understand the Bible which had been composed many centuries after these philosophers. If you think you can reject contents of the Bible, then you can reject all other books composed before Jesus because you doubt the veracity of the contents of those books. You were not living in that period to verify the facts. Unfortunately you have got to believe in the facts as reported in the books of history. There are inconsistencies in the historical writings even 50 years back There were great poets like Homer whose poetic writings Iliad and Odyssey are still being cherished by many people. He was born eight centuries before Jesus. Do you mean to say

Homers poetry was a forgery? Jesus himself has quoted scripture.

LOGIC AND USE OF REASON IN PREDICTING A CATASTROPHY

Let me take you back to logic. A few minutes before the Tsunami struck Asia the sea retreated and people out of sheer ignorance started to claim the land once occupied by the sea and some had even ventured out to demarcate the land. Some had gone to collect the fish left by the sea water. No logic or reasoning gave them any idea of an impending danger. When the ocean returned with ferocity they were ill prepared to face the reality. Thousands perished in few hours. You saw how the aircraft, soon after takeoff, lost its two engines when struck by birds and it landed on the Hudson River. You may attribute this to Pilot skill. It was all possible due to circumstances. As air traffic control was giving directions to Captain to land on a nearby airfield Captain was telling the air traffic control tower "we may end up in Hudson". There was a river and timing was correct. What would have happened if there was not a river? Where would he have landed? Who provided the Captain with an opportunity? When passengers felt the impact of some sort and decreasing altitude many passengers must have prayed and pleaded with GOD? If pilots had skills then majority of the air crashes would have been avoided. Yes pilots are trained for all the worst case scenarios but can you be certain of this for all circumstances. Have you not seen how only children survive in some cases? Imagine on 11th September thousands perished. Who would have thought four aircrafts would be hijacked by terrorists and ram them into buildings in New York. Who gave them moral authority to do this? Now America is

well prepared to face any threat from terrorists. Would not 9/11 be now a blessing in disguise? If terrorist had been armored with nuclear bombs they would have tried it and it would have been catastrophic. America is now on the lookout for the dirty bomb. You live in a world where you cannot live by logic and reason alone. There is a higher order of things that is manifest in what we see today such as earthquakes, natural disasters, eruption of volcanic ashes, other manmade disasters such as Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in Russia and the explosion in the chemical plant managed by Union Carbide in Bhopal India.

AXIS OF EVIL

Six decades back America and Britain were at the forefront of the battle fields in Europe fighting for the liberty of men and women who were under the Nazi tyranny. The conflict ended in the extermination of six million Jews. Millions of American, Canadian, Australian, British, Russian, German, and Italian soldiers on both fronts lost their lives. Several millions got injured in the battle. There were countless many other lives with no trace of their existence. There were millions of civilian losses and destruction of property. America allied with a ruthless dictator Stalin to crush the Nazi menace. Stalin was an odd character. It was alleged that Stalin had been crushing dissent in Russia with an unimaginable ruthlessness and ferocity. Yet elimination of Nazi menace was of paramount importance. Anglo-American alliance had to rely on Stalin to push back Hitler from the occupied Russian territory. You can see the importance of one man, a despot who was trying to conquer the whole world. So birth of each individual is an

important event. This person by the name of Adolf Hitler was the cause of all misery and chaos in Europe. Don't you understand the importance of Birth? The existence of Man on this world and his ability to turn things around would affect the humanity in many ways. So the cause, that is man marrying a woman for procreation, is even more important than the eventual effect of bringing a child to this world and his or her growth has wider ramifications. This is exactly the reason Plato argued in his dialogue in the Republic that a state must have Philosopher rulers who have wisdom and knowledge and also guardians who would produce quality children. For Plato education of the citizens is very important in a society. It would be interesting to study the history of despots who lived in this world and to arrive at the causes which contributed to such behavior.

On another front, Japanese Imperial Navy made an unprovoked attack on U.S Naval base in Hawaii. Thousands died in a short span of few minutes. It sent shock waves all over America and Europe. America developed the ultimate bomb the nuclear fission and used it to crush Japanese war machine and the War with Japan ended. That was the beginning of a new world order. The defeated Japan was treated well by the victorious America. American conscience was guided by nation's great intellectual values. Even today Japanese have the great respect for America. You live in a world of hamburgers, and French fries and you don't know what America or the West stand for. During the Second World War approximately 400,000 American soldiers died in battle. Their mission was to save thousands of lives who languished under Nazi tyranny.

Millions must have prayed for the safe return of their loved ones from the war front. Millions must have prayed for a speedy return of normalcy in Europe and in the Pacific theatre of war. Even the combatants themselves must have prayed. Your grandfather must have been a war veteran. Did he die in the battle field or upon retirement? He must have been lucky to have returned to America to spend his retirement. Many had gone before him whose bodies could not be found or identified and had to be disposed at distant grave yards. Millions were maimed and crippled. You now enjoy total peace in America it was because of your grandparents who sacrificed their lives not only for the liberty of America but for a better world. They died in Europe. Nazi Germany had in fact occupied most of the European countries and they had a plan to invade British Isles. The operation was called 'Operation Sea Lion'. Britain had 600 or so strong fleet of warships stationed all over the world. Britain also had other military and economic assets which came under British Empire at that time. If Britain had fallen into German hands it would have been a cake walk for Hitler to attack America and finally to conquer the whole world. You would be speaking German language now had it been successful. Hitler would have declared German as the official language of America and the rest of German occupied territories. Other countries too would have followed suite and German language would have been the international language. He would have suspended the operation of your prized possession the Constitution of America. You would have had no civil or human rights you now enjoy under the terms of the George Washington's Constitution. America would have come under German dictatorship. How can you be so ignorant of these facts and how can you be so ruthless in rejecting the existence of GOD.

PRAYERS OFFERED FOR THE RETURN OF NORMALCY

During the Second World War, there were prayers offered at every Church in America seeking GOD's mercy for peace and the return of normalcy. Do you think these prayers were empty words? People at that time derived consolation from sermons from the pulpit. Don't you think that your great grandparents would be furious if they came to know that you had rejected the notion of the existence of GOD? Would they not turn in their graves in pain? Are you aware that there were also anti-war groups and other organized dissent in America urging the government not to commit American troops to Europe? Hitler also had active cells inside America under various front organizations. Yet Anglo-American alliance was firmly of the view that Nazi tyranny must be ended. And they did. Before they went to battle fields there were military Chaplains who offered prayers and comforted them. There were families who had come to the naval and air bases to say 'good bye' and 'God Bless You'. Just the same way you saw on TV how the soldiers hugged their families before they went to Vietnam, Kuwait or Iraq. Emotions ran high as husbands departed to fight the Nazi tyranny six decades back. This was so with other cases in our contemporary history.

UNFORTUNALTY ALLIED FORCES COULD NOT SHARE THE VICTORY

Tensions among allied forces in occupied Berlin continued and till it simmered into a new Cold War with Soviet Union - yet another war of mutual suspicion came into existence. Stalin failed to cooperate with Allied Forces in normalizing the situation but instead engaged in brinkmanship.

Americans had in fact provided materials support to Soviet Union as help had been sought by them. The Cold War between Allied Forces and Red Army grew into a major political quagmire. This situation soon festered into pointing nuclear tipped inter-continental ballistic missiles aimed and targeted at American, British and European cities. This nuclear fission was far more intense than what was dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The brink of nuclear war came ever closer but nothing happened. Are you aware there were people who were praying for peace and sanity in the world?

The Cold War tensions were very high between Soviet Union and America. A Korean Air Boeing 747 a passenger aircraft had entered into Soviet air space accidentally. Soviet Air Force scrambled fighter jets to intercept the aircraft and it was identified as being a Korean Air civilian passenger aircraft. Nothing was done to make contacts with the aircraft to ascertain if Captain of the flight had made an error but orders came from Soviet ground commanders to shoot it down irrespective of the fact that the fighter pilot had positively identified the aircraft as being a Korean Air passenger aircraft. This caused 230 or so passengers to die in the crash and bodies were later found floating on the seas. This was the height of Cold War. South Korea was part of American defense posture. There were American bases in South Korea. North Korea came under Soviet defense posture. Tensions between America and Soviet Union were at a critical state. Soviets were threatening the world peace and world order. A war would have erupted in the Korean peninsula but somehow tensions died down. Americans had the international media and was able to mount a campaign against Russia over this horrendous incident. This tragic incident might have sent shivers in

Soviet Union domestically too as it was a civilian aircraft and it was not known whether aircrafts navigational system had a technical fault.

There were people who continuously prayed for world peace. People began to see a bright light at the end of the tunnel when political pragmatism prevailed in Soviet Union and America. Then leaders of America and Soviet Union came face to face in Iceland. It was to discuss and to cut down the nuclear arsenals and to alley mutual suspicion. Presidents Regan and Gorbachev deserve the commendation of the whole world for ending the brink of a nuclear war. The Berlin wall which had divided the East and West fell apart and it symbolized the end of mutual suspicion between the NATO and the WARSAW PACT countries.

FACULTY OF JUDGEMENT

You have the faculty of judgment and reason. When you were born you did not have any of the faculties of judgment you now claim of. You gained the knowledge of logic and reasoning whilst you were growing from an infant to an adolescent and now you are an adult with full freedom to think rationally. As you grew from an infant to an adolescent your mind was filled with information about the world and about yourself. You recognized your father and mother. When you dropped the ball you caused the ball to bounce⁴. You never knew before, that by dropping the ball, you could cause the ball to bounce. It was a new experience for you as an infant. Similarly your mind began to pick such experiences every minute of your growing days. As John Locke succinctly explains in his theory the **Tabula Rasa** in his book *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*⁵.

Same way from the time you started calling 'Mom' and 'Dad' you were experiencing the phenomenon of this world. You began to see different colors of the world.

You have proof that you resemble either your mother or your father. You are sure that you came through your mother and you were a creation of your father. Do you know how lucky you are that you can recognize your father and mother? There are many souls who have not seen the light of the world and they perished inside womb. Some have not even had the pleasure of experiencing the warmth of the mother either because Mother died at the time of their birth or due to some misfortune. There are many souls who do not know their father. There are illegitimate people who hide the facts about their birth because they would feel ashamed of their situation. If people found out these facts - they would be treated differently from others. You often call the other 'Bastard'. Bastard is a person who does not have a recognized father or in other words 'an illegitimate child'. This is the very reason you call another bastard in a derogatory way in order make him angry or feel hurt. There are millions of children left over by their parents due to poverty. Your birth made you an American. You are lucky to have born in a land of prosperity.

You still have absolutely no idea as to where you existed before your birth and neither would you find an answer - as to where you would go after your death. You only have a few ideas in your mind that is birth, sight, pain and pleasure, and death. Why do you think you exist - only to experience sight, pain, pleasure and other passions? Is there a wider meaning to life? Have you pondered for a while about the cycle of birth and death? There are approximately six billion (6,000,000,000 ++) human beings

in this world. Each is different from the other. Logically they cannot look alike or think alike. GOD could not possibly have made such a deliberate error. If all had the same intellect and appearance then when one raised the left arm all the six billion would raise the left arm simultaneously. Inconceivable, wouldn't it? How would you recognize each other if all the men have been created alike? Does not it strike you there is a divine purpose and strategy that each must be different from the other and independent of action or rather the 'will'? Each human being is a unique creature and entirely different from the other. Each is important to the other and has a role to play in this world. Do you think your role is only to deny the existence of GOD? What role have you played in this world? If you think that you have not been as productive as you should have been, then it is high time you thought about something worthwhile before you die. The least that you could do is to be grateful for being born with an intellect.

HUMAN NATURE

While one is skilled at preparing bread for supper and the other is skilled at curing disease. It is inconceivable for GOD to create all men to be the same. Look at animals they all look alike and they think alike. They live in herds and they have herd instincts also. They too have pain and pleasure. They too have limited senses. They are bereft of one thing that is intellect. Would you have preferred to have been born like a Bull sans intellect? If you had been born a Bull, you would be feeding on grass not knowing what is around you. You would have been pushed through a processing machine and ended up in a can of corned beef. A Bull cannot see the beauty of the World except the pleasure of eating grass. Nothing is more pleasurable for

a Bull than eating grass. I have recently had a rare chance of witnessing a sort of a quarrel between a group of Myna birds (of Starling family). Four or six birds were pecking and attacking one bird and there were three or four other Mynas that seem to have come to arbitrate or to bring peace among these birds. I even thought of intervening because I felt that one bird was being severely attacked and if it is injured it would be an easy prey for other predators. I could distinctly feel that these Mynas were communicating with each other but that language was beyond my comprehension. But somehow all of them flew away even the one who got beaten. I began to wonder whether these animals had a moral problem and whether the single bird, that was being attacked, had done something to make others furious. If they were angry then these animals have the sense of being infuriated by other birds in the group. Of course there are herd dynamics in other animals as well. There are many things we can learn from animal life. Even in the jungle the Lion somehow pounces on the least suspected animal and it does not have any instinct that a predator lurks around waiting for that evil moment in its life. No other animal can intervene to save another animal and they all run in fear. Have you thought of the timing? Every moment of our life is irrecoverable and we can only hope for the future. So what went behind us we cannot undo but we can change for the better in the future. It is a time for repentance, a time for reflection. So time well spent is a great cause of happiness. Do you still want to deny the existence of GOD?

Beauty of the world is therefore not meant for animals. It is meant for human intellect. Are you not then convinced that Man has a unique place in this World? Man is part of the Beauty and the Nature. Man is there to admire the beauty

of the nature. The beauty of the world would be nothing without an admirer. You now agree that Nature and its benefits are meant for Man. Are you still an unbeliever? Even up to this stage of this book? Never mind continue reading.

You know you have very limited senses and you cannot stay without breathing, water and food for sustenance. You must have these basics necessities to exist in this world. Quality of what you breath, drink and eat have some effect on your body. You know if you don't breathe you will cease to exist so in order to exist you must breath. **So breathing is part of your existence. In the same way for GOD to exist must you believe in GOD?** I doubt you will agree with me. But for my friend, whom I referred before, this may sound somewhat acceptable to him if we go by the Table and Cat logical reasoning. But I know this logic is not acceptable to you. I feel that your non-belief is based on nothing but your own illogical premises. Just imagine how many billions of men and women have died before you and how many billions would die after your death. But you still deny the existence of GOD but I still believe in the work of GOD. But the notion of the existence of GOD will remain forever irrespective of the fact whether you and I believe in GOD or not. Every human being who appeared in this world before us must have felt the same phenomenon that we feel today. It would be so with the future generation as well. It would necessarily be so. The beauty of this world would be curious thoughts in their minds. So the nature and beauty would exist even after we die. Are you still not convinced there is some supernatural being ensuring that HIS creations are intact? Would HE not get upset when we mess around with nature / his creations? Would HE hold us responsible for destroying the beauty of his creation?

LET ME SEE IF I CAN SHARE SOMETHING WITH YOU

I am a Sri Lankan national a catholic by birth. I am immensely grateful to GOD who gave life to me and also to have brought me in to this existence through no action of mine. I have had no part in my creation. Nevertheless I am wholly satisfied with my creation and I have absolutely no complaints whatsoever over my creation. If you look at me you might find some imperfections in me but as far as my own criteria is concerned I am grateful to GOD for the things that he has sent me along with to this world. I should call his creations absolutely perfect. He has given me the sense of proportion to look around to have my own judgments and I can see there are similar creations that have similar characteristics but differ only in the scale and measurement. But these characteristics of others are of no concern to me because I am satisfied with my being. I am also grateful to GOD for giving me my Mother and My later Father. They loved me and I too love them. When I came into this world I had and still have two sisters and they are wonderful. Thank GOD for everything HE has bestowed on me. I am beginning to wonder whether GOD had a blueprint of me before my birth whether birth is simply the beginning of the unfolding of the blueprint and making that blueprint a reality. It is an evolving blueprint. We keep amending it when we decide things in our own way and thereafter we regret over our own actions. There have been many occasions we have been prevented from taking our own action. Many a time have I said "thank GOD it was I who would have had to face that dreadful situation had I been there". Have you not had such a situation in your life?

I am also fascinated by the reading of philosophical and theological books of Aristotle⁶, Plato⁷, Catholic Theologians and Doctors of Church St. Augustine⁸ and St. Thomas Aquinas, French Philosopher Rene Descartes, English Philosophers Francis Bacon, John Locke, George Berkeley, David Hume, G.E Moore, John Stuart Mill, Jeremy Bentham and Theologian William Paley. Their books have had an immense impact on me. It allowed me to think differently. Reading a book is about having a near conversation with the authors of great intellect. I thank GOD for the exposure he provided me with to get acquainted with the philosophies of these great thinkers.

RENE DESCARTES

One of the thinkers whom I admire most is Rene Descartes. Descartes said that if he were the author of his own existence he would have made himself perfect. Descartes drove home the fact that we exist in this world through no action or fault of ours but rather through a supernatural power that has had some role in the creation of our being. Descartes is right because my parents had absolutely no idea whether I would be born as a boy or a girl and neither did they have any clue that I would be writing a book at this age and at this time of my life. I am 47 years old and I am a 6 footer and taller than my father. However I know that I exist in this world and I came to this world through my father and mother. I also have two sisters and I love them a lot. I am very pleased to have read the book *Meditations* written by Descartes⁹. I must say that contents of the book really made me to think differently and I am totally different from my previous appreciation of the nature of the world. Descartes arguments are very convincing. I would be remiss if I did not share few further Idea of Descartes

proof of God. He argued in his book *Meditations* the nature and the existence of God. According to him we are not the authors of our own existence and if we were the author of our own existence we would have made ourselves in a much better conditions than what we are today. In other words he proves that our birth is creation of another being and it must of necessity be GOD. It would be pertinent to quote here Descartes argument about how one could be erred in thinking and then have the power to correct oneself. The creation of GOD cannot be so incomplete if the mind is not furnished with such power of judgement over our own thinking. I feel that it would not be such a difficult task to imagine that there is a benevolent GOD, a Creator, or rather about the person who gave you an existence, and there will be a sea change in your thinking if you begin to think of the concept of mind and its complexities. Many great thinkers have broached the subject of the mind but none have been able to solve the riddle. It is the most precious gift a man had been bestowed with.

I reject Darwin's theory because mind could not possibly have evolved into being through the theory of evolution. It was the same mind that was there at the very beginning of mankind and it is the same one that we all have now. We are born with a blank mind and through experience we derived knowledge. One might argue that how come some are born with certain skills like ear for music or any other skill or a craft. This proves that there is someone who gives direction to nature. If this is attributed to evolution then one could say that at the time of birth we already possessed knowledge. It is impossible. Life would have been very dull if knowledge had been given at the time of birth. Life would have been effortless and also meaningless if we had already possessed knowledge at the time of birth. One

could also argue whether we could quantify the knowledge that GOD had given us at the time of birth. Yet again this is impossible. Every time you think critically you begin to feel that there is a supernatural being that had destined you to exist in this world. If we had been born with the gift of speech and knowledge we would begin to talk and perhaps argue with the very mother who just brought you into this world. Your first question to your mother would be "why the hell were you keeping me inside nine months or so?". Just imagine a small boy once asked his mother, while looking at his mother's wedding picture, as to why he was not chosen to be her page boy. He was only 4 years old and innocent question though it was, it meant to drive a hard question to me – what would have been the position had we had the gift of speech at the time of birth. This sounds very awkward and impossible according to GOD's wisdom. The nature has its own meaning. The nature has given us at least 12 or 13 years to attain maturity to transform our minds. As you can see there is a distinct time and space within which all our actions and conduct manifest itself. GOD had in fact given us a new slate, a new beginning and a new existence. Even the Son of God Jesus Christ did not venture into his mission until he was 30 years old. There is a divine purpose and a call to duty which manifests through our life as we progress.

Let's see what Descartes has to say about one aspect of mind among his many theories. Descartes says "when I considered any very simple and easy matter in arithmetic and geometry, as, for example, that two and three make five, and other similar matters, did I not conceive them at least clearly enough to affirm that they were true? Indeed, if I have judged since that these things can be doubted, it has been for no other reason than because it occurred

to me that a GOD might perhaps have given me a nature such that I might make mistakes even concerning the things which seem the most obvious to me. But every time this preconceived opinion of the sovereign power of a GOD presents itself to my mind, I am constrained to admit that it is easy for him, if he wishes, to arrange that I fall into error, even in things which I believe I know with the very greatest certainty. And on the other hand, every time I turn towards things which I think I conceive very clearly, I am so persuaded of their truth that I spontaneously declare; let him deceive me who may, but he shall never be able to cause me to be nothing, so long as I think that I am something, or to cause it one day to be true that I have never been, it now being true that I am, or that two and three make more or less than five, or such like things which I see clearly cannot be other than as I conceive them. And indeed, as I have no reason to believe that there is a deceitful GOD, and as, moreover, I have not yet considered the reasons which prove that there is a GOD at all, the reason for doubting which depends only on this supposition is very slight, and so to speak, metaphysical". Let me quote yet another paragraph from Prof. F.E Sutcliffe (University of Manchester) in his introduction to Descartes Meditations. He says "by reflecting on the notion of doubt itself, Descartes perceives that, as to know is a greater perfection than to doubt, he must be an imperfect being. But an imperfect being cannot produce the idea of perfection which he nevertheless possesses. No other being, imperfect like himself, could have given it to him; only a perfect being could have done so, therefore a perfect being GOD exists. Lastly, the famous ontological proof, the most important. Absolute perfection is the sum total of all possible perfections. GOD, being absolute perfection, must necessarily exist since existence is one of

the perfections. To imagine that GOD does not exist is as absurd as to imagine a triangle which has not three angles. Descartes was very pleased with this proof and wrote 'I dare to boast that I have found a proof of the existence of GOD which I find fully satisfactory and by which I know that GOD exists more certainly than I know the truth of any geometrical proposition'

OUR BIRTH

We have only limited senses and our actions are very limited to whatever we can think of and reach of. If I, for example, were the author of my own existence I would have made myself filled with more knowledge than what I have now. My parents did not have an idea at the time of my birth that I would have the appearance of how I look now. So one thing is clear as parents they brought me into this existence through a process not on their own. But I am an independent person and I undergo pain and pleasure. I am now independent of my father and mother and they play no part in my existence. I have two sisters and they too are independent creations and on their own. They live and exist independently of my father and mother. Why am I born in Sri Lanka and not in America and not in France? Who decided that I should be born through my parents and I should be born in Sri Lanka. Did you ever think of your own birth? You are born in America and you see that your economy is the most strongest of all other economies of the world. There are also others who by their birth would be entitled to be called 'the Crown Prince', 'Heir to Throne', 'Heir Apparent', or the 'future King'. Think of your parents are they not rich and do you see a stretched limousine parked outside your house. You saw the private jet owned

by your parents. They had this Jet even before you were born.

MAKING COMPARISONS

Think of another situation. You are born to parents who live in a remote village in the African continent. There is hardly any drop of water to drink. You have to walk miles and miles to fetch water. Yet water is not as pure as the water you drink. You have the date of manufacture and date of expiry marked on the pure bottle of water you have on your table. You can resort to legal remedies if anyone defrauds you over the quality of water you drink and the food you eat. If you had been born in Africa you would have had no clue as to the contents of the water. You would be drinking contaminated water with bacteria. How lucky and fortunate your life is. Look at your house you have everything. Look at the house in another poor part of the world. You have a swimming pool in your house.

Yet another place in India they bath or wash their clothes in crocodile infested rivers. There cases of crocodiles having dragged many of them to the river bed for a hearty meal. They live in fear of Crocodiles. They have neither clothes nor shelter of the quality that you have. They are infected with deacease. There are plenty of mosquitoes and the resultant deadly malaria or dengue fever. There are venomous snakes that lay hidden in undergrowth where farmers engage in cultivation. They don't have the mechanized farm equipment that you have in your country. You have an air conditioner to make you feel comfortable. You have a cozy revolving chair. You have a hamburger with multiple layers of beef and cheese. Do you think everybody is as fortunate as you are to have all

these luxuries? There are millions of souls who are acutely malnourished and struggling to survive with only one meal. Your government gives you the best education whereas in other parts of the world literacy rate is even below 30% of the population. I am also aware there are some areas in America where social justice is in abeyance but it is marginal when compared to America as a whole. **Is not America a blessed country?** In 1956 America adopted the national motto as **IN GOD WE TRUST**. Have you not thought of these things? If not - would not it high time you reflected upon these things. You need to reflect on all the good things that you have in your life. It is your birth that you lay claim to all these things. You played no role in your birth. Have you never pondered for a while as to whose decision it was that you should be born in America?

There are people born crippled, blind or with some major or minor physical disabilities. Look at you. You have no birth defects in your body but you have excessive fat and you do jogging to make your body trim and perfect. There is another person who does two jobs for survival and does not have time to think of jogging. He is struggling to earn a living for survival. You look plump and one looks lean. You look very handsome and other does not look as handsome as you are but he is satisfied and feels overwhelmed by his Being. You undergo tensions, anxieties and pressure over many issues in your life but other is relaxed and spends a life full of vigor. You smoke and drink and the next day you suffer from hangover of drinking intoxicants. The other shuns intoxicants but eats food of different varieties and he suffers from excessive eating. Both extremes manifest discomfort.

You receive your wages on time because if your wages are not paid in time you have recourse to legal remedies. Your country has laws that secure your job. There are jobs where wages are not paid in time and in addition to that employees are exposed to physical and mental torture. They are virtually in prisons. In some places employees are exposed to radiation and toxic materials. Think of house maids who have gone in search of employment overseas and returned with nails in their bodies. Nails have been driven to their bodies as punishment for any mistakes they may have committed in her masters house. But these incidents were reported not in America but from some other part of the world where there is zero regard for human rights, whereas in American Human Rights are upheld by every authority as it is a statutory requirement. Some house maids have been raped by the master and they chose to remain silent due to cultural taboos. There are secret abortions whereas in some cases house maids have jumped from high rise buildings in a bid to commit suicide.

WILLIAM PALLEY

There is a one more person who made me think differently that is William Palley, a British philosopher and a utilitarian. His arguments are somewhat analogous to Descartes. William Paley in his book Natural Theology has succinctly demonstrated his case for GOD's creation of this wonderful human being and how it works. It's indeed a marvelous creation. This is how he describes it. "In crossing a heath, suppose I pitched my foot against a stone, and were asked how the stone came to be there, I might possibly answer, that for any thing I knew to the contrary it had lain there forever ; nor would it, perhaps, be very easy to show the

absurdity of this answer. But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground, and it should be inquired how the watch happened to be in that place, I should hardly think of the answer which I had before given, that for any thing I knew the watch might have always been there. Yet why should not this answer serve for the watch as well as for the stone ; why is it not as admissible in the second case as in the first ? For this reason, and for no other, namely, that when we come to inspect the watch, we perceive—what we could not discover in the stone—that its several parts are framed and put together for a purpose, e.g. that they are so formed and adjusted as to produce motion, and that motion so regulated as to point out the hour of the day ; that if the different parts had been differently shaped from what they are, or placed after any other manner or any other order than that in which they are placed, either no motion at all would have been carried on in the machine, or none which would have answered the use that is now served by it”.

Descartes also says in his Sixth meditation that “as a clock made up of wheels and counter weights, observes all the laws of nature no less exactly when it is badly made and does not keep good time, as when it completely satisfies the desire of the maker, so in the same way, if I consider man’s body as being a machine, so built and composed of bones, nerves, muscles, veins, blood and skin, that although it had no mind in it, it would still move in all the same ways that it does at present, when it does not move by the direction of its ‘will’, or consequently, with the help of the mind, but only by the disposition of its organs, I easily discern that it would be as natural for this body, supporting it had dropsy, for example, to suffer the dryness or the throat which customarily indicates to the mind the feeling of thirst

and to be disposed by this dryness to move its nerves and the other organs in the way necessary for drinking, and thus to increase its sickness and do itself harm, as it is natural, when it has no disposition, to be prompted to drink for its good by a similar dryness of the throat”.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Thomas Aquinas, an Italian Dominican Priest, is one of the influential thinkers of the Catholic Church and no other philosopher is capable of defeating the arguments advanced by St. Thomas. His masterpiece Summa Theologia is still being studied by Philosophers and Jurists even today. There are so many theological treaties written by him. Before you refute the existence of GOD you must first apply your mind to the reasoning of other blessed men in this world who had the gifts of intellect. How unfair it would be for your little learning to reject the notion or the existence of GOD.

Aquinas attempted to expound the theory on the existence of GOD. He came up with several principles of proving the existence of GOD. This is what I understood to be convincing argument for the proof of existence. He begins with the fact of change, or motion in the universe. You know very well that everything that is moved must be moved by something distinct from itself - for instance, as the heating of water requires heat, and the generation of bodies requires an agent. You must then acknowledge the existence of a mover who is unmoved. The first mover is what we call GOD. Second point is that there is a cause and effect. Nothing can be the cause of itself, for then it would have to exist before itself. There are things that lack intelligence and they cannot act for a purpose to tend to a

goal unless guided by some intelligence. You cannot be an Archer without giving direction to the arrow. Arrow would reach its destination only when you give the direction to it. So there is an intelligent Being who gives direction to the things. He is the intelligent GOD.

DAVID HUME

David Hume, a Scottish Philosopher also explained the meaning of cause and effect in his book *Treaties on Human Nature*. He says whatever begins to exist must have a cause of existence. According to him (1) the cause and effect must be contiguous in space and time (2) the cause must be prior to the effect (3) there must be constant union between cause and effect (4) the cause always produces the same effect.

CHARLES D'ARCY

Bishop Charles D'Arcy had written extensively on the Spirit and Nature and the freedom of the 'Will' in his book *A Short Study of Ethics* and he says that "Am I to believe that the world has no existence but what it derives from its relation to the human spirit? Is the Universe private possession of my own? Are the Sun and stars in their courses, the solid earth and all that it contains, mere creatures of my intelligence? Does the light of heaven go out in darkness when I shut my eyes? Does Cosmos become chaos the moment I become unconscious in sleep? Shall the vast mechanism of the material universe become a nonentity when I die?"

I have now placed many facts before you. As Aristotle said "what is last in the order of analysis seems to be the first in the order of becoming? Choice is the adoption of an action arrived at by such a process". You now need to analyze once again your conception of GOD. GOD cannot possibly have an image, if there is an image then one could draw a picture of GOD so now the question is from where the artist can begin to draw the picture. GOD does not have a beginning or an end. We cannot imagine the shape or size of GOD. There are no shapes or sizes of GOD. It could very well be a line across the page and the artist would require an infinite amount of papers to draw the picture and the artist must continue drawing an infinite number of years. It would still be a line across the paper continued from the first paper he began to draw. You know you cannot divide one by zero and mathematical result is 'infinity'. In the same token I would say that universe has no bounds if there is a boundary one could then ask whether there is anything beyond the boundary. If there is a boundary, GOD's power would then be limited and his creations would also be limited. GOD is universal and has neither a beginning nor an end.

If you are still not convinced I would suggest that you read this book at least three four times. I am sure you will change your way of thinking and you would return to GOD with an apology and fall at his feet. You should not waste your time on logic and do not rely on your own thinking and reasoning. Think of the world around you. Think of the marvelous things that you see around. If you really believe in GOD, I would suggest that you remove the last page of this book and paste it in a conspicuous place in your bedroom where you could see him all the time. He is the GOD in human form and you should humble yourself to

accept him as your savior and your life will be transformed forever. You will begin to feel the inner peace and tranquility and you will be looking for him more and more. You will have to surrender your whole life to him. Leave all your worries and anxieties in him. Trust him and make him to be your guiding star. You can rest assured that there will be a sea change in your life.

LIFE AFTER DEATH

Just imagine where you would go after your death. If you deny the existence of GOD then why do you believe there is a Soul? If you go by that argument you can simply say you have only body. There is not a soul. For you the existence of hell or heaven is meaningless because you don't believe any of these things.

Plato says in his book Republic that soul is immortal because its own specific fault, moral wickedness, cannot destroy it. It would be worth quoting the entire passage on 'the Immortality of the Soul and the Reward of Goodness'. I would suggest that you read Plato's Republic and get to know the meaning of the immortality of the soul. You need to do a lot of home work rather you should have done your homework before denying the existence of GOD. Plato describes the visible world and the intelligible world as:

Visible World :

The Sun – source of growth and light which gives visibility to objects of sense and the power of sight to the eye. The faculty of sight.

Intelligible Word:

The Good – source of reality and the truth which gives intelligibility to objects of thought and the power of knowing to the mind. The faculty of knowledge.

I firmly believe that your ignorance has driven you to deny the existence of GOD. You wasted your precious time and now you need to go back to learn more about GOD. If you had believed in him you would now be spending your time in his glory and grace.

GEORGE BERKELEY

I am also fascinated by the writing of Bishop George Berkeley. He was an Irish Philosopher born in the year 1685. He wrote his famous book titled Principles of Human Knowledge in which he posits the theory that 'nothing in this world is mind-independent' that means everything is 'mind depended'. We cannot say that when we don't perceive an object it ceases to exist. He says that the mind also has a power of framing abstract ideas or notions. He says that objects that we perceive such as "rivers, mountains, trees, houses have an existence distinct from there being perceived by our understanding".

I would however like to build on Berkeley's idea that the 'mind has the power of drawing abstract ideas". I feel that this is an essential requirement in keeping with GOD's plan for the man. Man has been asked to multiply and master the land. If mind is not furnished with the power of abstraction it would not be able to imagine things and would not be able to plan accordingly. I feel that man's power of abstraction culminated when the Man landed on

the moon. As Astronaut Neil Armstrong rightly said **“one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind”**. If there is no power of framing abstract ideas, it would go against GOD’s will. So this proves that Laws of Nature are always right. Since mind has the power of framing abstract ideas it also has the potential to reject the idea that GOD exists. However it would be a pity if you didn’t expose your mind to the facts that prove the existence of GOD. To deny GOD’s existence through your little learning is a great misfortune. Human mind has certain limitations. For example you can multiply 4×4 and arrive at 16 and your mind cannot easily do the same calculation 16×16 as this will require some effort and some proof of it. How will you therefore deny a Universal GOD? Will you not be belittling your own intelligence? To deny GOD’s existence you need to be re-born again and again in different forms—first you must be a physician to know how the anatomy of the human body works. Then you must be born again as mathematician to know the principles of mathematics and then again as an Astronomer to know about the cosmos. So in one’s existence one cannot possibly deny the existence of a super natural being by your 12+ years of learning in school or anything you studied at the University. As Plato said “in this short span of life nothing really good can be realized”.

Berkeley says that objects exist in our mind when we perceive them but when objects are unperceived by us we cannot assume that they cease to exist and their continued existence is therefore due to its being continuously perceived by GOD. Berkeley also says that “whatever power I may have over my thoughts, I find the ideas actually perceived by sense have not a like dependence on my ‘will’. When in broad daylight I open my eyes, it is

not in my power to choose whether I shall see or not, or to determine what particular objects shall present themselves to my view; and so likewise as to the hearing and other senses, the ideas imprinted on them are not creatures of my 'will'. There is therefore some other 'will' or 'spirit' that produces them".

AUGMENTING MINDS ABILITY TO PERCEIVE

Are there any objects, visions or apparitions which our mind cannot perceive yet exist? Since mind does not have the ability to perceive objects which are beyond the ability of the mind, yet how can we overrule its nonexistence? Since each human being is gifted with certain abilities of mind or the possibility of further augmenting mind's ability to perceive, could someone with a different ability perceive the existence of GOD?. Does this depend on how one humbles himself before GOD so that GOD bestows on him the ability to perceive GOD and then to be in his glory and grace? There is a hidden meaning in what Jesus said *"Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me"*¹⁰.

The Bible has plenty of examples over this issue. Jesus has sprung surprises at people who were humbled enough to call HIM. Why not just try to read the Bible once and see if you can learn something from it let alone believing GOD? Believing in GOD has been and will be difficult for you because you have not read the Bible. Jesus himself

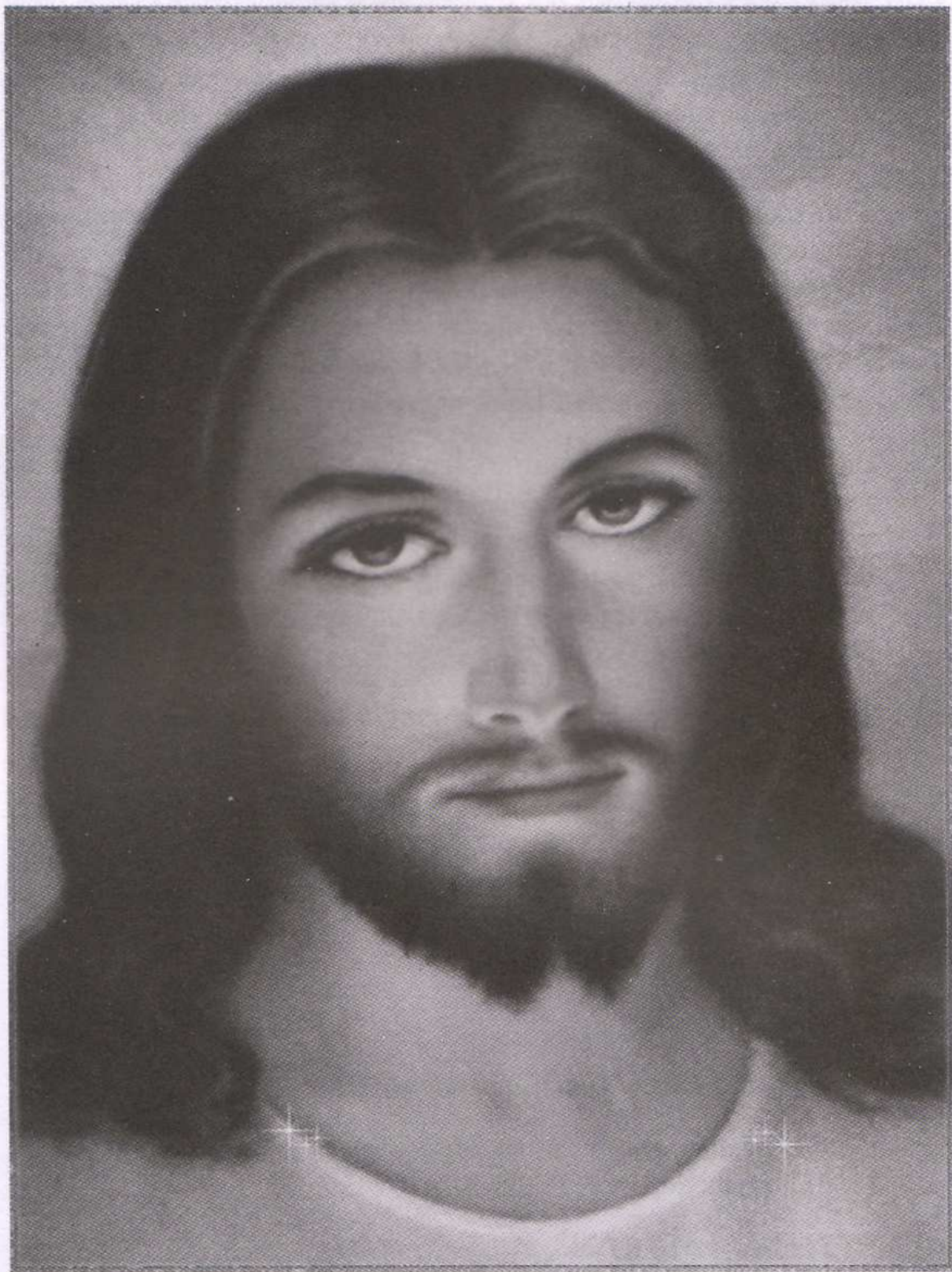
says (Luke:10;8) that *'Whatever town you enter, if they welcome you, eat what is placed before you. Heal those who are ill there, and tell them, **The Kingdom of GOD has approached you**'*. So by reading the Bible you will expose yourself to the approaching Kingdom of GOD. Perhaps it might reveal in you a lasting impression of GOD. What you need is 'the will' to open up your mind and **'the will to read the bible'**.

You need to direct the light of your mind at your own self. You will change from within. Is not it high time you became the master of your own 'will'? Since you are now a non-believer owing to another 'will' that has overwhelmed and overpowered you, by reading the Bible you can once again be the master of your own 'will'.

**MAY GOD GRANT YOU THE WISDOM TO KNOW HIM
AND FORGIVE YOU FOR BEING SO IGNORANT OF
HIM FOR SO LONG.**

References

- 1 The term "morality" can be used either (1) descriptively to refer to some codes of conduct put forward by a society or, (A) some other group, such as a religion, or (B) accepted by an individual for her own behavior or (1) normatively to refer to a code of conduct that, given specified conditions, would be put forward by all rational persons. Taken from the Online *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- 2 I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.
- 3 I do solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me, according to the best of my abilities and understanding, agreeably to the Constitution, and laws of the United States. So help me God.
- 4 This idea was expounded by late Prof. John Passmore of Australian National University.
- 5 John Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Lock refers to Tabula Rasa as being a condition of mind at the time of birth, a blank slate and knowledge derived from experience and perception.
- 6 Aristotle, *Politics*, *Nichomachean Ethics*
- 7 Plato, *The Republic*
- 8 St. Augustine, *City of God*, *Confessions*,
- 9 Rene Descartes; *Discourse on Method and the Meditation* (Penguin 1968). Introduction by F. E. Sutcliffe.
- 10 NT Mathew 18:16 KJV





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